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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949 - 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 21 Jul 1950

WHERE
PUBLISHED USSR

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE
PUBLISHED 10 Dec 1949 - 10 Mar 1950

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

USSR PUSHES NEW IRRIGATION PROJECTS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

In December 1949, a state commission was organized to put the Nizhne-Zanga Canal into operation. (1) This is part of a project to improve the irrigation system in the cotton-growing regions of the republic. (2) This region, irrigated by a canal, was formerly a waterless mountain plateau on which nothing could grow without irrigation. At the same time, neighboring mountain ranges grow vineyards, orchards, and agricultural crops.

During the period of canal construction, the builders overcame considerable difficulties in working the rocky ground by using explosives, excavators, compressors, and other machinery. It was found that when the water was allowed to flow through the natural river channel, it was lost in motion because the canal passed through extremely porous ground. As a result, 23 of the 28 kilometers of the canal had to be lined with concrete. Along the canal, 175,000 square meters of concrete finish were laid, from .50 to .30 meter thick. The canal greatly improves the work at the kolchozes of Echiadzinskiy and Zangibarskiy rayons, and the Rayon imeni Beriya. These rayons have reclaimed 4,758 hectares of newly irrigated land. The new land will be utilized for vineyards, sweet almond orchards, and other agricultural crops. In addition to dry areas, these rayons had areas which received an insufficient quantity of water, thus considerably lowering the harvest of cotton and other crops.

The Nizhne-Zanga Canal provides water supply for a 5,000-hectare area and assures water supply for low-lying regions.(1)

The project of the Ministry of Water Management, Armenian SSR, also involves the building of sluices and water gates for kolkhozes. In Oktaber'yan-skiy and Artashatskiy rayons, 25 sluices have been completed. Before the end of 1949, 75 additional sluices and water gates will be built in 50 kolkhozes of the republic. (2)

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In the Turkmen SSR, the Tash-Sakin system, which irrigates kolkhoz fields of five rayons, is now in operation. The opening of this irrigation system was preceded by a large amount of work which was necessary in cleaning the silt and river alluvium from the main lines of the system. Agricultural artels in the area have begun winter irrigation and watering of cotton- and alfalfa-growing fields prior to sowing. By the time sowing begins, 30,000 hectares will have been irrigated.(3)

Kolkhoz workers of Kabardin ASSR are preparing to set up hydraulic installations for spring and summer irrigation of agricultural crops. Irrigation canals are being constructed in many settlements. This will make it possible to increase the irrigated area to 7,500 hectares. It is planned to irrigate about 28,000 hectares of kolkhoz fields, orchards, and gardens in the republic during 1950.(4)

The Ministry of Water Economy, Azerbaydzhan SSR, reports the following results toward plan completion in cleaning irrigation canals by 1 January (in percent of the plan):

<u>Rayon</u>	<u>Cleaned</u>
Agdamskiy	88.1
Yevlakhskiy	60.2
Akstafinskiy	53.4
Mir-Bashirskiy	50.1
Pushkinskiy	38.6
Bardinskiy	38.3
Khillinskiy	30.6
Astrekhanbazarskiy	29.1
Khudatskiy	26.8
Karyaginskiy	25.8
Geokchayskiy	25.5
Kyurdamirskiy	24.1
Akhsuinskiy	22.9
Divichinskiy	22.7
Zhdanovskiy	19.7
Dzhebrail'skiy	19.2
Zardobskiy	18.1
Kasumizmaylovskiy	18.1
Agdzhabedinskiy	15.0
Imishlinskiy	13.6
Zakatal'skiy	13.6
Khaldanskiy	10.7
Siazanskiy	9.6
Alibayramlinskiy	7.1
Nizaminskiy	6.7
Zangelanskiy	6.3
Sabirabadskiy	5.9
Sal'yanskiy	3.8
Shamkhorskiy	3.0
Safaralievskiy	1.5

In Nakhichevan ASSR, in Kazinskiy, Kusarskiy, and other rayons, cleaning of irrigation canals has not yet begun.(5)

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SOURCES

1. Kommunist, No 59, 10 Mar 50
2. Kommunist, No 290, 10 Dec 49
3. Pravda Vostoka, No 4, 6 Jan 50
4. Pravda, No 8, 8 Jan 50
5. Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 6, 8 Jan 50

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